

CLAIMS

1. A method for manufacturing natural intestine sausages, comprising the steps of:

fitting a natural intestine casing over a stuffing tube in a state in which the natural intestine casing is divided into a shirred portion and a straight portion;

causing an intestine pushing member to push and advance the shirred portion toward an intestine receiving member;

pinching the shirred portion by and between said intestine pushing member and said intestine receiving member;

detecting that said intestine pushing member has reached a predetermined position;

pulling the natural intestine casing on said stuffing tube projecting from said intestine receiving member and sliding the natural intestine casing on said stuffing tube by transporting the natural intestine casing, stuffed with a material, by transporting means for a predetermined time after the detection; and

stopping the discharging of the material into the natural intestine casing after the lapse of a predetermined time.

2. The method for manufacturing natural intestine sausages according to claim 1, wherein said intestine pushing member is moved toward said intestine receiving member by being driven by intestine-pushing-member driving means, and the manner of movement of said intestine pushing member by said intestine-pushing-member

driving means is changed at a position where said intestine pushing member is located midway before reaching the predetermined position. 112 1129

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3. The method for manufacturing natural intestine sausages according to claim 1, wherein said intestine pushing member moves toward said intestine receiving member by receiving a pneumatic force by air blowing means.

4. An apparatus for manufacturing natural intestine sausages) including a stuffing tube having a distal end and adapted to stuff a material into a natural intestine casing, material supplying means for supplying the material into said stuffing tube, and transporting means disposed forwardly of said distal end of said stuffing tube and adapted to transport the natural intestine casing, stuffed with the material, in a direction away from said distal end, comprising:

an intestine pushing member⁶ for pushing a rear end portion of the natural intestine casing on said stuffing tube;

intestine-pushing-member driving means⁷ for pushing and advancing said intestine pushing member toward said distal end of said stuffing tube;

an intestine receiving member^{8A} having a hole portion through which said distal end is passed so that said distal end of said stuffing tube is located in such a manner as to project on a transporting-means side, said intestine receiving member being adapted to receive the natural intestine casing being pushed by

said intestine pushing member;

detecting means for detecting a position of said intestine pushing member and generating a detection signal; and

controlling means for stopping the operation of said material supplying means in response to the detection signal.

5. The apparatus for manufacturing natural intestine sausages according to claim 4, wherein said intestine pushing member has an intestine pushing surface for pushing the natural intestine casing, said intestine receiving member has an intestine receiving surface for receiving the natural intestine casing, and said detecting means is disposed so as to detect the position of said intestine pushing member whose intestine pushing surface has come into contact with said intestine receiving surface.

6. The apparatus for manufacturing natural intestine sausages according to claim 4, further comprising: detecting means for detecting the position of said intestine pushing member and transmitting to said intestine-pushing-member driving means a signal for instructing a change of the manner of pushing and advancing said intestine pushing member.

7. The apparatus for manufacturing natural intestine sausages according to claim 4, wherein said intestine-pushing-member driving means has air blowing means for blowing air onto said intestine pushing member.

8. The apparatus for manufacturing natural intestine sausages according to claim 4, wherein said transporting means has a pair

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of wrapping connectors to which constricting members for constricting the natural intestine casing, stuffed with the material, are fixed at predetermined intervals, and each of said pair of wrapping connectors has a shaft, a locus circle depicted by a tip of each of said constricting members which respectively move about said shaft, and a common tangential line which is tangential to the pair of locus circles of said pair of wrapping connectors, and wherein said stuffing tube is disposed such that said distal end thereof is located between the tangential line and said shaft.

1. The apparatus for manufacturing natural intestine sausages according to claim 4, wherein said controlling means has means for changing a transporting speed of said transporting means in response to the detection signal.

2. The apparatus for manufacturing natural intestine sausages according to claim 4, wherein said intestine pushing member has an intestine pushing surface for pushing the natural intestine casing, said intestine receiving member has an intestine receiving surface for receiving the natural intestine casing, said apparatus further comprising: intestine-receiving-member attaching member having an end face provided with a hole portion in which said intestine receiving member is attached, wherein said intestine receiving member is disposed in said intestine-receiving-member attaching member such that said intestine receiving surface is positioned flush with said end face or in such a manner as to project

toward a side opposite to the transporting means side from said end face.

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1. The apparatus for manufacturing natural intestine sausages according to claim 4, wherein said intestine pushing member has an intestine pushing surface for pushing the natural intestine casing, said intestine receiving member has an intestine receiving surface for receiving the natural intestine casing, said apparatus further comprising: intestine-receiving-member attaching member having an end face provided with a hole portion in which said intestine receiving member is attached, wherein said intestine receiving member is disposed in said intestine-receiving-member attaching member such that said intestine receiving surface is positioned inside said hole portion.

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2. The apparatus for manufacturing natural intestine sausages according to claim 4 or 6, wherein said detecting means has a proximity sensor for detecting said intestine pushing member.

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